(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal at present to launch national environment mission. However, a nation-wide campaign called the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) is conducted every year with the objective of creating environmental awareness at the national level. Eco-clubs in schools are also supported under the National Green Corps programme regularly.

'Vangrams' in M.P.

†1871. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Vangrams' situated in Madhya Pradesh alongwith the action being taken in respect of transferring these 'Vangrams' into revenue villages of the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) by when these 'Vangrams' would be notified as revenue villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) and (b) There are 893 'Vangrams' (forest villages) situated in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Government of India. has accorded in-principle approval for the conversion of 310 'Vangrams' into Revenue villages. However, further action in this regard could not be taken up due to the Hon'ble Supreme Courts orders dated 13.11.2000 banning de-reservation of forests. In view of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 13.11.2000, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has been advised that the proposals for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages shall be processed by the Central Government only after the State Government of Madhya Pradesh obtains the permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, or after a final judgment is delivered in the matter by the Hon'ble Court.

Controlling pollution

1872. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that species one after another are being wiped out, forest cover is dwindling and pollution is becoming a major health hazard;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any firm step to conserve on war footing, rebuild rural forestry and empowering pollution control board to proactively regulate pollution in order to provide clean water, air to all living being including all citizens; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Pollution is becoming health hazard but forest cover is not dwindling in India. There have been reports that over the past fifty years, there has been a loss in the biodiversity throughout the World.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken following measures to conserve flora and fauna of the country and to regulate the pollution:–

- Survey and inventorisation of floral and fauna resources are carried out by Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring purposes.

- A Protected Area Network of 96 National Parks, and 509 Wildlife Sanctuaries and three Conservation Reserves, covering more than 4.74% of the geographical area of the country has been created for *in-situ* conservation of habitats and ecosystems.

- Fourteen biodiversity rich areas have been designated as Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems.

- Species oriented programmes, namely, Project Tiger, Project-Elephant and Project Rhino focussing on single species as well as for conserving their habitats and a variety of other species in those habitats are being implemented.

- To complement *in-situ* conservation efforts, *ex-situ* conservation has been undertaken through botanic gardens, zoos, gene banks etc.

- Biological Diversity Act 2002 has been enacted and Biological Diversity Rules 2004 have been notified, which aim at conservation of biological resources of the country and regulation of access to these resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use.

- Notification to general and industry specific emission and effluent standard.

- Industries to obtain "Consent for Establishment" as well as "Consent to Operate" under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) prior to carrying out operations.

- Environmental Impact Assessment of developmental projects and preparation of Environmental Management Plan as per the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment notification of September, 2006.

- Adoption of cleaner technologies and use of improved fuel quality.

- Regular monitoring of industrial units for environmental compliance.

- Issuance of directions in cases of industries not complying with environmental norms.